National Youth Policy

1931. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a National Youth Policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The National Youth Policy 2003 was laid on the table in both Houses of Parliament during the month of December, 2003. There is no proposal at present to formulate another policy.

(b) The National Youth Policy 2003 reiterates the commitment of the nation to the composite and all round development of youth and to establish an all India perspective to fulfill their legitimate aspirations.

The policy defines youth as persons in the age group of 13 to 35 years.

The Policy lays stress on Youth Empowerment, Gender Justice, Inter-Sectoral Approach, and Information and Research Network.

The policy accords priority to rural and tribal youth, out-of-school youth, adolescents, particularly female adolescents, youth with disabilities and youth under specially difficult circumstances like victims of trafficking, orphans and street children.

Preparations for commonwealth games

1932. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any fast track decision making mechanism and freedom to bring in foreign expertise to speed up preparations for the 2010 Commonwealth Games in the Capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of each project?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Preparations for the Commonwealth Games include multiple projects and activities which are being handled by Organizing Committee, the DDA, the NCT Delhi Government and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. There is no restriction on the use of foreign expertise by the stake holders, subject to their following transparent procedures.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in the light of (a) above.

Stipend to players and athletes

1933. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of players and athletes getting monthly stipend from Central Government for their brilliant performance, State-wise;

(b) the rates of different kinds of stipends; and

(c) the manner in which it would help to develop the standard of performances in terms of the international year-stick?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) There is a Scheme of 'Incentives for Promotion of Sports Activities' under which Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons is one of the components. Those sportspersons who are Indian citizens and have won medals in Olympic Games, World Cup/World Championships, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Para-Olympic Games, are given life pension from the age of 30 years after they have retired from an active sports career. At present, 352 sportspersons are getting pensions under this component.

(b) The rates for different kinds of pensions are as under:—

1.	Medalists at the Olympic Games	Rs. 5000/- p.m.
2.	Gold medalists at the World Cups/ World Championships in Olympics and Asian Games disciplines.	Rs. 4000/- p.m.